

**Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
General Council Meeting**

18 March 2009
Lowell, OR
6:30 PM

I. Welcome and Introductions – Ms Montanaro

II. Review and Approval of January 2009 Minutes. The Minutes of the January 2009 meeting were approved as written.

III. Council Member Announcements

- Don Hampton said there will be a tree planting effort on May 3 at 2 PM at a few locations around Oakridge. One location will be in the local community garden, the second will be along highways for a visual buffer. Don also stated that the City of Oakridge had applied for Tree City USA status.
- Eve Montanaro, education coordinator Cristina Watson, Kiwanis Club and City of Oakridge will lead a tree planting at Greenwaters Park on May 3rd. The education program will lead a planting at Buckhead Natural Area with 4th graders on April 27. A request for volunteers was asked. At the tree festival in 2009 the MFWWC will have a booth staffed by Eve and Cristina, education coordinator.
- Corps of Engineers is ramping up invasive species control and eradication around the Willamette valley and in the watershed. There are several areas of focus with contractors, prison crews, general maintenance, and herbicide application. The plan is to try and eradicate completely at several areas to minimize costly year after year treatment. Water forecasts and lake levels based on rule curves are where they should be in terms of water levels for this time of year.
- Forest Service is requesting one million dollars from PAYCO for restoration work in the watershed. The largest item is a \$200,000 for 40 high school aged kids to perform restoration, invasive species removal, fuels reductions and other efforts in the watershed.

IV. Board of Director's Update from Notes of 2/11 BOD meeting:

- Chuck Davis mentioned the continuing effort of discussion over employee versus contractor status for a planned second employee. Motion was passed to hire person as employee. Financial status of board currently will allow person to be hired for 2 years.
- Sean Stewart from Oregon State Parks was added as a new board member. Elections for Board Members were also held. Chuck Davis was elected president. Gregg Vollstedt was elected vice president. Stephanie Schroeder was elected as treasurer. Barb Hazen was elected as secretary.
- Chuck mentioned that the Lost Creek restoration efforts had suffered some damage from high waters washing plantings and native seeds downstream, and that the 10 year action plan was addressing contractor concerns presently.

V. Executive Update

- Eve Montanaro mentioned the board authorization to hire of a project manager as a full time employee. Discussion about benefits is underway.
- The 10 year action plan is about 1/3 of the way done. A synthesis of sub-watersheds and assets and assessments is about to be completed by consultants. Next step will be to prioritize assets and needs and then use as a guiding document. Draft will hopefully available for review in June.
- Water Quality Monitoring Program is underway. Started in 10/08, and program takes measurements all over the watersheds in sub-basins and major tributaries with cooperation with municipalities taking samples around town. Plan is to develop “hot spots” of concern that can be addressed and fixed. Study will take two years.
- Recently reviewed a recommendation for funding to re-introduce bull trout at Indigo Springs in the upper Middle Fork. Project, which is being led by FS, will involve culvert replacement, channel construction, and placement of large woody debris. A monitoring plan has also been recommended for funding for this project.

VI. Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act

- Thomas Andrade presented the history and science behind the fuels reduction plan that the Oregon Department of Forestry has been undertaking in counties across Oregon since 1997. Since 1997 there have been 12 counties addressed, now the focus is on Lane County. The plan is to reach approximately 20,000 Lane County homes that have risk for urban interface fire. The prescription plan assesses location of homes and their risk and provides a prescription associated with that level of risk. This voluntary program ask the residence to perform various tasks around the home which may include but not limited to clearing of under story brush, roof cleaning, wood pile removal, and some minimal tree clearing. It was stressed heavily that the ODF should be consulted before any personal clearing takes place, namely in respect to removing large trees and large scale vegetation removal. Property assessments are done by 2 ODF appointees and 3 Lane County appointees in coordination with local fire departments. Recommendations are mailed out in large white envelopes with a request return card stating that the work has been completed.

VII. Final Announcements and Adjourn

Final announcements: This Saturday, March 21, there will be a household waste round up at the Lowell fire department from 9 AM-2 PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Chad Stuart

USACE representative, Board of Directors